IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 33, lines 10-21, as follows:

As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the respective imaging units 14Y, 14M, 14C, and 14Bk respectively have a photosensitive drum 15 as an image carrier, and the respective photosensitive drums 15 are rotated in the clockwise direction in the figure by a drive unit (not shown). A charging roller 16, a development unit [[10]] 110, a cleaning unit 19, and the like are provided around each photosensitive drum 15. The development unit 110 applies toner carried on the developing sleeve 111 onto the photosensitive drum 15. Laser beams from an optical write unit 18 are irradiated to the photosensitive drum 15 from between the charging roller 16 and the developing sleeve 111. In Fig. 2, the respective members of the respective color imaging units are denoted by reference number with alphabet (M, C, Y) indicating the color.

Please amend the paragraph at page 40, lines 2-11, as follows:

As illustrated in Fig. 3, the regular reflection output characteristic of the Bk toner is such that the output value becomes substantially zero or a slightly positive value (never be a negative value), with an increase in the transfer. Therefore, a minimum value of a ratio between the regular reflection output and the diffuse reflection output is determined for each reference pattern of each color toner, and by subtracting a value obtained by multiplying the diffuse reflection output by the minimum value from the regular reflection output, the output characteristic of only the aimed regular reflection output components can be extracted by an image density control unit 135, shown in Fig. 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 45, lines 10-22, as follows:

As explained above, according to the image forming apparatus according to the first

embodiment, since the image density control unit 135 controls image density ~~is controlled~~ based on a value obtained by subtracting a value obtained by multiplying the "diffuse reflection output" by a "minimum value of a ratio between the regular reflection output and the diffuse reflection output" from the "regular reflection output" of the reference pattern of each color detected by the optical detecting unit that can detect both the regular reflection light and diffuse reflection light from the detection target simultaneously, the density of the respective color reference patterns can be accurately detected, without being affected by the surface condition of the transfer belt of the intermediate transfer body. As a result, the image quality can be improved, by optimizing the respective color image density.

Please amend the paragraph at page 45, line 34, to page 46, line 11 as follows:

Further, the image density control unit 135 controls image density ~~is controlled~~ based on the relative ratio between the value obtained by subtracting a value obtained by multiplying the "diffuse reflection output" by a "minimum value of a ratio between the regular reflection output and the diffuse reflection output" from the "regular reflection output" of the reference pattern of each color detected by the optical detecting unit, and a value obtained by subtracting a value obtained by multiplying the "diffuse reflection output" by a "minimum value of a ratio between the regular reflection output and the diffuse reflection output" from the "regular reflection output" in the background of the transfer belt or the intermediate transfer body, detected by the optical detecting unit. As a result, accurate detection of the reference pattern density can be performed, regardless of the surface condition of the transfer belt or the intermediate transfer body.